

Respected Educational Committee members,

1. Common core standards are at a high level. It is mastered by a very few students but a solid wall that blocks others. ELL students who need at least 7 years to master English language, are expected to master it without even mastering the language. Most of our cities and few suburbs have increasing ELL students. It is frustrating for these students and their teachers, who are held accountable for the students' performance.

2. The implementation of Common Core and the amount of training teachers have had, has been sporadic thus far. The integration of science and social studies as part of common core standards and the focus on non fiction is high. When vocabulary is not mastered content areas(non fiction) is hard to understand.

3. Teachers are not resisting common core standards. In fact we have been teaching it for quite sometime(past 8 years since I have been teaching). Any standard should have clarity of purpose. The common core standards are set so high to measure what? If we need to measure comprehension of reading and understanding of science and social studies there are fun, easy ways to measure it. What makes it harder is the way the standards are measuring comprehension, vocabulary, writing and grammar.

4. Teachers are the ones who know the curriculum and student expectations. I recommend that the committee considers a panel of only teachers, from K-12, to determine age appropriate standards from the CCSS and draft a revised student- friendly version. Trust the teachers.

5. Continuous testing, less instruction time due to more tests, and pacing guides which restricts focusing on reviewing and reteaching, teacher evaluation process are some of the major forces working against successful implementation of CCSS.

If you have noted, I am not pointing fingers at any one instead focusing on what is present and how we can make it better for students, teachers, administrators, parents who are stakeholders in this profession.

Thank you for listening to us. You have taken a step in the right direction. Slowing it down , taking it steady and getting it right is vital to ensure the success of any major shift. Please help us succeed.

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Sent from my iPhone